

The departmental budget review reconvened on Monday, April 12, 2010, at 10:55 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

Mr. Kaneshiro: We have the Civil Defense Agency up at this time. With that, I will call Mr. Mark Marshall up. You have the floor, sir.

MARK MARSHALL, Administrator, Civil Defense Agency: Good morning Council. Good to see you folks in your new nice new digs here. Congratulations on that. Looks good.

Mr. Furfaro: Mr. Chair, civil defense issued us a presentation earlier. Is that the one we're going to... Is that the most current one, Mark?

Mr. Marshall: Yes.

Mr. Furfaro: Same one, okay.

Mr. Marshall: Yes sir.

Mr. Furfaro: Thank you.

Council Chair Asing: Which one is that, Jay?

Mr. Furfaro: It was put in our mailbox last week.

Mr. Kaneshiro: We'll make a copy and have that circulated. I have it here. Anybody else need a copy? Hold on for a few minutes so we can get a copy...our committee members can get a copy of it.

Mr. Marshall: I'm not going to read you my mission statement or the department overview, but I would like to start with your request for personnel additions. There's no new personnel additions. If you look at our huge organizational chart, you'll see I'm the emergency management officer, I have a plans...a new plans and operations officer, Elton Ushio's prevailed in that interview process, which vacates his position as grant coordinator, and then I have Karleen Abalos as my secretary, public safety secretary, and I have two grant funded positions that are from homeland security moneys. One of them takes care of mostly the books and contracts and stuff. The other, Gregg Morishige, takes care of training and exercise, among other duties of the homeland security money. So that's pretty much where we are with our personnel setup. I have deferred filling the grants coordinator's position until October so that I could realize part of the 7 percent reduction in my budget as requested by the administration. And so if you look at the spreadsheet portion of it that I omitted but finally got you a copy of, it shows you the difference. The delayed hiring would save 33,200 in the categories of obviously salaries, social security contributions, and retirement contributions in that. So the total savings comes out to 41K, 500 and 95 dollars. So that's how we gave back the 7-percent that was requested from us.

Mr. Furfaro: So this 41,595, that is what the mayor references as his strategy to short fund—postpone the hiring.

Mr. Marshall: Correct.

Mr. Furfaro: By two to three months, he said to us it would be quarterly.

Mr. Marshall: Right, so that's...my assumption is that this would start in July (inaudible).

Mr. Furfaro: So we'll fill this in October then.

Mr. Marshall: Correct. And then that's what I indicated in the little narrative that I wrote. Then there's a pie chart that shows 42 percent is salaries and wages, fringe is another 24 percent, and then it shows the rental and fixed cost...when we pay the rent on all of the radio police sites for our 800 megahertz system, we control the contracts and pay those leases on those sites, and we also pay the light bills on the sirens. There's not an actual meter on them. KIUC figures the value of draw of that electricity and gives us a flat rate, then we pay monthly on that one. We also have been doing about 50 or 60 travel requests for different federal/State travel, so we need some money in our account to certify...(inaudible) the travel; it's all reimbursed by federal government, but we have to have the money upfront to make the travel purchases, the tickets and rent-a-cars and flights and all of that stuff, and that's why...that travel is not just for the four civil service employees in my agency. That's pretty much all I have in terms of a presentation for you. There's not much here in a 500K budget.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Okay, with that, Mr. Chang.

Mr. Chang: Thank you. Mark, you were saying that you pay the electricity for the sirens? What sirens were you making reference to?

Mr. Marshall: Well, we have 54 outdoor warning sirens. About half of those are solar, so they don't require any electricity from KIUC. The other half do, however, and they charge batteries so they're ready all the time to sound sirens. The sirens are owned by the State, and we have an agreement with them to obviously sound them and employ them if we need them in an emergency. We test them first working day of the month at 11:45, and we pay...our portion is paying the electrical bills on those sirens.

Mr. Chang: So do all of them work?

Mr. Marshall: Again, we test them monthly. Last month we had about 5 or 6 failures for varying reasons. It either can be power supply, which would be our side, or the electronic side, which would be the State side, and that includes the 800 megahertz radio that fires them, and then the inner workings of the sirens to get those to turn on.

Mr. Chang: So if they don't work, it's minor or additional cost to get them rebooted or...

Mr. Marshall: There's (inaudible) additional cost to us. What we do is we identify it to the State civil defense technicians who come over quarterly and they leave tools and ladders and things here in my shop. They go out and they take out hit list, a punchlist of failures. Sometimes we don't have the ability to contact somebody to do the groundtruthing that the thing's actually fired, so we'll put a...if you see our reports, it'll say NC, which means no contact. NS means that no sound, that we got verification that it was supposed to sound and it didn't on that occasion. And I've got to say, when we employed them for the Chile earthquake, we had about 5 or 6 that failed at that point, but I got really good response from that, particularly because we had coupled it with connect CTY and done the public notification. So anybody that's listed in the phone book automatically would have gotten a call. It's an automatic in on that one. And then we had another...about 5,000 people that signed up their cell phones or SMS text messaging or hearing impaired devices like TDY and stuff like that, or had it emailed to their computers or their phones or whatever. We got nothing but raves and good reviews on the employment of that, and that is a \$50

line...\$50,000 line item in my budget for continuing that service. It was purchased by the State originally as a pilot for us, and then we picked it up subsequently. We're in the process of re-bidding it, so we're not sure which vendor we're going to get, but we're in that process and trying to get that (inaudible).

Mr. Chang: Thank you.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Mr. Furfaro.

Mr. Furfaro: Yes, thank you. Mark, you're feeling comfortable about short-funding the actual grant person for that 120 days?

Mr. Marshall: Am I comfortable with it?

Mr. Furfaro: Yes.

Mr. Marshall: No.

Mr. Furfaro: Okay.

Mr. Marshall: You wanted me to be honest, right?

Mr. Furfaro: That's the only way to be. But you know what, I prepared to ask that question, because we're saving 120 days, the reality, we could be shortchanging ourselves on some opportunities.

Mr. Marshall: We're trying to do the best we can with what we have.

Mr. Furfaro: I understand. I just needed to ask that question. I don't know how you calculated your fringe cost if you're delaying these people for 90 days, but you know, I look at the fringe benefits as being a percentage of the total salaries. The way you laid it out here, it's actually a percentage of your total operating cost. But if you match it up, your benefits are going from last year of 48% of payroll to 56.7. I mean it's not a lot of money, it's about 10 grand, but 10 grand is 10 grand, and if you have, you know, this change of people, there's certain people that are coming in at first year, you know, they're just beginning to earn benefits. They're not benefits that are already in existence. So could I ask you to just check on that how you came out? I know there's line items from medical to insurance right down the line, but...

Mr. Marshall: My understanding is it is a 56 percent benefit package.

Mr. Furfaro: Yeah, that's what you have for this year, 56.7, but in the previous year you had 48.2. So one of them is...

Mr. Marshall: One of them is... What happened was Clifford Ikeda retired in August, so we obviously stopped paying that salaries and wages and his fringes, so that...off the top of my head...

Mr. Furfaro: Then no bother, you've answered my question. Some of that is related to retirements, some natural attrition in your department. Okay.

Mr. Marshall: Yes sir, I think that... Off the top of my head, I think that's what's going on.

Mr. Furfaro: That does make sense. And your variable costs are pretty much the same as last year. May I ask, when it comes to rental contracts equipment and so forth, is everything pretty secure? I mean do we have agreements on rental cost for facilities and so forth that...

Mr. Marshall: Pretty much. I have two of them that...two radio lease sites that I still need to negotiate contracts on. One is with Hawaiian Homeland, and I don't expect that to be a terribly expensive one, and the other one is with Grove Farm, and I've been in contact with the vice president, Michael Tresler, about sending me a contract to get that up. I've asked him again to hold that static and make it...I usually ask for five year term or longer, but I've asked in this case that he do me a two three-year contract with a...where we are now and maybe a one percent gain on that, and let's renegotiate as things look brighter for us in the short term.

Mr. Furfaro: Okay, so you feel pretty comfortable that these rentals and other fixed costs you got a handle on it...

Mr. Marshall: I believe so.

Mr. Furfaro: ...and we're not going to see a deviation from what's presented.

Mr. Marshall: No, and we figured in the incremental cost on some of the contracts that we know are already going to pop up on us, whether it's through this fiscal year or moving forward, and we've kind of figured that in.

Mr. Furfaro: And then the same question for utilities. As we're getting into the summer, July, August...you feel comfortable you're going to be able to stay within your...

Mr. Marshall: I think so. We actually don't pay the electric bill at the police station; that's done by finance, I believe. We pay for the historical county building, our portion of the alternate EOC there, and also the historical society is on our meter as well.

Mr. Furfaro: I'm really surprised to hear that, because the...that building actually has a trane air conditioning system that can actually re-demand, whether it's on the electrical power for the chillwater pumps and so forth, but your piece goes to...it will show up in finance. Is that...

Mr. Marshall: For the...

Mr. Furfaro: (inaudible)

Mr. Marshall: Where our office is, yes.

Mr. Furfaro: It will show up in that one.

Mr. Marshall: I'm pretty sure it's there. It's not in my budget (inaudible), but my electric costs are for the sirens that I talked about, and then the historical county building. And I used to have...we have a small meter on the Mahelona storage. It's been turned over to KPAL for their athletic endeavors, but it's real small. It usually hits a minmum of the \$25 minimum.

Mr. Furfaro: Okay. Do you have an idea of what your kilowatt hours are that you actually get charged for here?

Mr. Marshall: We did look at that bill at one point, because you were last year asking to see a reduction in that, and we found that when we put in the two dehumidifiers, one of the office area, the one down in the alternate EOC that it dropped the monthly bill by about 900 to a thousand dollars, just with that, and we were able to kind of keep the mold at bay with dehumidifying those rooms.

Mr. Furfaro: I think they also programmed the trane air conditioning system to get a better handle on the temperature there as well.

Mr. Marshall: And I understand the new system will be a true central air for the entire building, including the basement area.

Mr. Furfaro: Okay. Well Mark, thank you again, and I just want to thank you for the recent emergencies and your response team was just excellent. Well thank you for all of your (inaudible).

Mr. Marshall: The outcome was particularly favorable.

Mr. Furfaro: Yeah, the outcome was favorable, but it seemed we were in a position where everybody was well-informed and everybody needed to be where the plan called for them to be.

Mr. Marshall: Thank you for those kind words, we appreciate it.

Mr. Furfaro: I have no more questions.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Mr. Bynum.

Mr. Bynum: Good morning Mark.

Mr. Marshall: Good morning.

Mr. Bynum: This might be a naïve question, but the budget says salaries are 215 and your spreadsheet says 238, can you explain? It's probably me missing something.

Mr. Marshall: You're looking at the salaries line?

Mr. Bynum: I'm looking at the salary line and the budget says 215,876, and the salaries line in your yellow says 238.

Mr. Marshall: It's an excellent question. I wish I had an excellent answer for you.

Mr. Bynum: I was anticipating...this 238 includes your grant funded positions?

Mr. Marshall: No, it would not. That would just be county funded positions.

Mr. Bynum: So I just noticed a difference...

Mr. Furfaro: Well, one of the notices I may point out is, when I asked him if starting in October, but if you look at the narrative, it might have had some exceptions, because it says two to three months; it doesn't give you something real affirmative as to when the hiring occurs.

Mr. Bynum: I think I may have just figured it out.

Ricky Watanabe: It doesn't take into account the lapse provision...I mean the furlough provision.

Mr. Bynum: I just figured that out by doing the math. So your 238 does not include furloughs, right.

Mr. Marshall: Yeah, sorry.

Mr. Bynum: What happens to grant funded positions if the office is closed?

Mr. Marshall: We've not determined that yet. I've asked the question, but I don't have an answer for you at this point. My problem...my dilemma there is that if I don't pay them, I lose the money. So we're trying to figure out a way to either have them work more hours during the 8-hour day and then pay it that way, or some other contingency, but we've not had that full discussion.

Mr. Bynum: So these grant funded posi...if the off... If you don't pay them you lose the money.

Mr. Marshall: If I don't spend it. I mean there might be a possibility for me to re-budget it and get permission from the State to re-budget it and spend it on something else.

Mr. Bynum: Not to mention losing the productivity.

Mr. Marshall: Well that's, I think, the key point there is, you know, lose productivity without people on the job.

Mr. Bynum: Yeah, we haven't discussed that much, but we'll discuss it in the future.

Mr. Marshall: And I've asked that question of the administration, and I think they're wrestling with all, not just obviously my little agency. So we're going to be actively engaged in that solution of what we would do if we do furlough.

Mr. Furfaro: Could I just follow up on that? So you know we're going to have an additional day on April 20 to discuss that?

Mr. Marshall: Correct, I heard that I was needed to be...attended to that meeting.

Mr. Furfaro: And your narrative that says two to three months on this postponement, whatever it relates to the 22,000 credit that's on the line item.

Mr. Marshall: Correct.

Mr. Bynum: Yeah, that's not reflected in the budget.

Mr. Furfaro: No, it's not, yeah, and the narrative is kind of not...it's not two months or it's not three months. It's somewhere in-between.

Mr. Bynum: Yeah, because that two to three month was a choice you made in terms of reducing your thing, as opposed to one that shows up in our budget.

Mr. Marshall: Correct.

Mr. Bynum: I think we're going to have a long day on the 20th, because my list of questions is getting longer and longer, so you can anticipate some of those questions.

Mr. Marshall: I look forward to that discussion.

Mr. Bynum: Thank you.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Again, I would recommend to committee members to forward those questions to the administration, rather than waiting for that date to have the discussion and pop the questions to the administration. Any other questions for Mr. Marshall? Go ahead.

Ms. Kawahara: Good morning, good to see you here. When you were here last we had discussed that one radio site lease, it was just about coming up for a renewal, and this is the one that's about ten times more than any of your other sites, and I see there wasn't any success in finding an option...another option for that or asking for a reduction in comparison to all the rest of the fees that are charged anywhere else on the island. Could you go through that with me a little bit?

Mr. Marshall: Yeah, we negotiated with Bank of Hawai'i Trust, and that site is pivotal to our 800 megahertz system and hosts a small footprint there, but I can't over-emphasize how critical it is to our overall system. In scouting around and looking for other areas, site development of a communication tower in this county is...I don't even have a good enough adjective for it, but it's really hard to...and very expensive to try to develop, even if you could get the permits to develop a suitable site for that. What they did do is do a short-term contract with us for a three year period, kind of similar what I was saying with Grove Farm in that they held the lease fairly static. I think there's maybe a one percent gain over the three year contract, and we'll renegotiate when things are better.

Ms. Kawahara: Now the thing is the footprint is the space that you have your equipment on that they're allowing you to lease, right?

Mr. Marshall: Right, and there's a tower as well. That's really where the money is up in the air in the tower.

Ms. Kawahara: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Go ahead Mr. Bynum.

Mr. Bynum: So you have six positions, two grant funded, four are county funded?

Mr. Marshall: Correct, including my position.

Mr. Bynum: And in those four county funded, that's 100 percent county funds or are there federal funds...

Mr. Marshall: No they're a hundred percent county funded.

Mr. Bynum:

Thank you.

Ms. Kawahara: Yeah, thank you. You know, we had that exercise for the tsunami thing which turned out to be really good. So your agency is the one that does civil air patrol. Is that the ones that go out and fly around the island and tell the remote area, people that might be there?

Mr. Marshall: That's correct. They actually have two planes here—one dedicated for Ni'ihau and one for Kaua'i. We...you folks actually put...help me, 50,000? Yeah, we cut it in half this year. Last year's budget you gave them 30,000; they didn't nearly expend half of that, so we cut that after consultation with the commander here, Roger Cares, who by the way is also the wing commander for the State. He's the top commander for the volunteer statewide, but he happens to also lead the Kaua'i civil air patrol. He concurred that they could live with that amount of training money. It actually pays for fuel and some of their communication requirements through that that moneys had dried up traditionally from the State. So we picked that up. He asked me to share with you that we have the most pilots qualified to fly tomorrow than anybody in the State, including O'ahu. So we have a dozen or so here, where the other islands like Maui has one or two, O'ahu has like 6 or 8, and he touts that ability because of the moneys that council gave them for their training and for their ready...and yes they...on that Chile earthquake, they flew three sorties for us, one right at daybreak, and then right at the first siren sounding, came back and fueled and then flew another one. Response from around the island of people, fishermen, and kayakers, and campers, indicated that they understood what the planes were doing. They actually signaled back with flashlights, which I thought was kind of interesting, from the ground to the pilots so that they knew that they had gotten the message, allowing them to continue around and people fled... We had about 800 people all the way up at Koke'e. If you're really scared of a tsunami, that's the place to go up to. But it means that our effectiveness in our notification and warning was on the (inaudible) side of doing that. We're just cautious that we don't want to over-warn people and overuse our connect CTY, because then people won't pay attention to it. So I think as it stands now, it worked out really well with those folks. They also sent us some pictures of people camping on Ni'ihau, and they also got the message and figured out what's going on. In subsequent photos or images that they sent back to us, we can see them all loaded on a huge truck and making their way inland. So that makes me feel really good on an island that I've never been to and would really like to do some inspections and, you know, worry about those souls that live there. As you know, the Robinsons are very guarded and have said that they don't need my services; they'll call me when they need me, and we've kind of left it at that. But we saw that this was effective from afar, and we were also in telephone contact with Bruce and Keith Robinson as well on that morning.

Ms. Kawahara: Okay great. Well I'm glad to see that that's still in here and it's sufficient for the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you. Thank you Chair.

Council Chair Asing: Mark, what is your understanding of the grants coordinator's position? When I say what is your understanding, I'm talking about the responsibility towards other departments.

Mr. Marshall: We go after the federal funding from homeland security and from fema, the federal emergency management agency. In some of those grants, it's already earmarked a certain portion goes to law enforcement, to KPD, and then certain portions would go to fire activity, and then others are kind of general funds that could help. We've helped things with public works, with several other agencies besides police, fire, and ourselves. So it really depends on which grant and what the intent and the target of those grant funds were.

Council Chair Asing: Okay. I think my question is... It's really... I believe when the position as funded, it was intended to do three departments: civil defense, police department, and fire department.

Mr. Marshall: That's correct.

Council Chair Asing: So the question I really have for you is, is your interpretation the same...

Mr. Marshall: That is, yes sir it is.

Council Chair Asing: You will be doing grants for the three departments.

Mr. Marshall: That's correct, and in some cases, we administer the funds from cradle to grave and do all the reporting and all of the invoicing and everything. In other cases, they have identified in either fire or police, and so we work with either massaging their submittals or working up budgets and stuff like that, but the money remains in their...in the police or fire budgets, and so we don't administer those funds.

Council Chair Asing: Okay, then let's just send over a question on, you know, the number of grants that you've conducted and the total amount and to which department did the funds go to.

Mr. Furfaro: May I add on that?

Council Chair Asing: Yes, go ahead.

Mr. Furfaro: And Mark, that's the reason I asked at the very beginning, the value of that position being short-funded for three months, because I have the same understanding as the Chair—that grant position supports the other loss prevention departments like police and fire, so it's not only short funding the person in your office, it's leaving us a little bit of a vacuum on what we can apply for police and fire as well.

Council Chair Asing: Yes. Okay, that's the question I had. I also want to, again, commend you on the work that you've been doing. I did have an opportunity to spend some time when you did the tsunami statewide, and I thought that was just a very tremendous undertaking and very successful. It was very interesting to hear the governor trying to coordinate statewide with other agencies, and it got a little sticky at times, very sticky as a matter of fact, between decision makers and I just want to commend you. I think it went off real well.

Mr. Marshall: Thank you for those kind words and I appreciate it.

Council Chair Asing: Very good, thank you.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Okay, any other questions by committee members? If not, thank you very much Mr. Marshall.

The Civil Defense Agency departmental budget review concluded at 11:31 a.m., and there being no objections, the meeting was in recess.